

The City of Marion, South Carolina

SWAMP FOX SCENE



A FREE monthly news magazine for
the citizens and visitors of the Swamp Fox City

Volume 4, Issue 9

February 2014

Director at Marion Recreation says Good-bye



Dear Citizens of the City of Marion,
I would like to thank all of you who have made my time as Director of Parks, Recreation and Leisure services in Marion such a memorable one for me. Coming back home and renewing old friendships and making so many new ones has been such a genuine joy. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to make what we do possible and it could not be done without such a fine staff and support from City Hall. These people have my enduring respect and admiration. To our volunteers, coaches and others, we could not do what we do here without your service, time and dedication. Thank you all for being a special part of this wonderful process. Please continue to give and let's make this a place where our children can enjoy and strive for their best, true selves. And last, but

most important, to the children and young adults in our community I want to say thank you for sharing your laughter, your efforts, your sense of wonder, and for never ever failing to be entertaining and enthusiastic in all that you do. Your smiles will always be in my memory and let me know that it was always a job worth doing and no matter what else may happen in the future, this was time well spent.

You all have blessed me with your trust and cooperation. From the deepest part of my heart, Thank you!

Forever a true Swamp Fox,
Russ Smith

Magnolias on Main Presents:
A Valentine's Day Dinner
hosted by
Dolgun Dervish owner of Magnolias
on Main.

Each lady will receive a Rose.

Date: Friday, February 14th, 2014
Time: 6:00 pm until
No reservations are needed.
For more information,
call Dolgun at 843-765-3077.

Magnolia on Main
400 N. Main St
Marion, SC 29571

Open Table Seating
\$12.50 per person

4th Annual General Francis Marion Day



Several Marion County businesses and individuals come together each year to organize events in remembrance of General Francis Marion. He and the people of this area played a unique role in the American Revolution.

The last weekend in February is set aside to offer other activities that bring families and friends together in our historic city. The annual Historic Marion RunFest brings runners from all over and the 5th Annual Swamp Fox Chili Cook off showcases their culinary talents. This year's activities will be February 22, 2014. Please join us for this year's festivities.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. is the 5K and 10K Run/Walk. Immediately following will be the Tot Trot run.

Entry forms are available in City Hall and around town different locations. Registrations can be dropped off at City Hall, 107 S. Main Street and early registration will be conducted on February 21 beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Marion Opera House located at 109 Godbold St, Marion, SC 29571. Registration resumes at 6:00 a.m. on the day RunFest.

To register in the 5k or 10K and for information about the Historic Marion Runfest, call **Pam Jones** at City Hall at 843-464-5961 or register online at www.rmssports.com.

To register to compete in the Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off, and for information about this event, call **Steve Pool** at 843-468-8366 or online at www.swampfoxchilicookoff.com.

To learn more about the Britton's Neck Militia Re-enactors and 18th Century living history, call **Denley Caughman** at 843-423-5220.



It's in our hands!

Safety Is Everyone's Concern.

Together, we can make a difference!
The City of Marion has a TEXT A Tip
line. See a crime happening! Have a Tip!
Text it to 430-0938.

Visit the City of Marion
online at www.marionsc.gov
and on Facebook under City
of Marion, South Carolina
for the latest in news.



5th ANNUAL SWAMP FOX CHILI COOK OFF
Downtown Historic Marion, SC

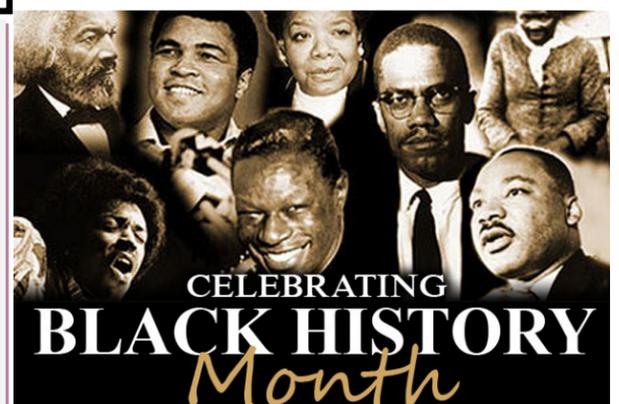
Saturday, February 22, 2014
12:00 PM till the last bean's gone
Courthouse Square in Downtown Marion
on Court and Dozier Streets.

Sponsored by Bridger's Drug Store

Marion
Historic
RunFest!

February
22, 2014

Save the
date.



**Mark your Calendar
Look what's on the
way in Marion.....**



February 5th

8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Marion County Arts and Fashion Complex, 320 N. Main Street.

February 11th

6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

February 14th

6:00 p.m. - until, Valentine's Day Dinner hosted by Dolgun Dervish, 400 N. Main Street.

February 15th

Murder Mystery Dinner. Marion County Museum, For details call Rosanne Black at 423-8299.

February 22nd

General Francis Marion Re-enactors.
9:00 a.m. Historic Marion Runfest begins at Opera House. Immediately following will be the Tot Trot run.
12:00 p.m. Swamp Fox Chili Cook-off. For more information, call Steve Pool, (843) 468-8366 or visit online at www.swampfoxchilicookoff.com.

February 25th

Relay for Life. Tuesday, TEAM CAPTAIN Meeting at 6:00 p.m. .at Carolinas Hospital System in Marion

February 26th

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Women in History. Marion County Museum .

Coming in March.....

March 5th

8:30 a.m. Rise and Shine at Bounce and Play, 1404 N. Main Street.

March 8th

Relay for Life. Tuesday, Purple Glove Dance Competition at the Pee Dee Vipers basketball game

March 11th

6:30 p.m. City Council Meeting, Council Chambers.

March 25th

5:30 p.m. Taste of Marion County at the Academy for Careers and Technology (former MCTEC), 2697 E. Highway 76, Mullins.

Employee of the Month



Each month, the City of Marion awards an employee with the honor of Employee of the Month. The employee is chosen based on his or her performance during the month. While many nominations are submitted for the outstanding work city employees do, only one person whose accomplishments were far above and beyond the parameters of their job is selected. The Mayor and City Council are proud to honor recipients with this award and thank all employees for the exceptional work they do on a daily basis for the City and the citizens of Marion.

Marion Municipal Clerk of Court Heather Evans was selected as the December 2013 Employee of the Month. Heather has been employed with the City of Marion Police Department since July 2005 and was promoted to her current position as Clerk of Court in 2006. She has consistently been an extremely efficient and highly organized employee for the Court, Police Department and City.

"Heather is the face of the Court, being the first person most see or speak to at the Court," said Marion Municipal Judge Pat Speth. "She is courteous and fair to all coming before the Court, including the defendants, victims, their families, attorneys and law enforcement officers."

Heather is continually studying and learning through judicial clerks' seminars and other training offered to her to improve herself and the Court. She strives to provide the best court for the City. "Heather is definitely the glue that keeps our Court together," said Speth.

Mayor Bobby Davis and City Council recognized Heather Evans for her service and dedication to the City of Marion at the January 14th Council Meeting.

City's Playgrounds

The following City of Marion playgrounds provide free fun and are open to the public:

Withlacoochee Park

Withlacoochee Ave - This park has a walking track and playground equipment. This site holds Marion's Tennis Courts.

Grice's Recreation Center

603 Gurley Street - The playground has been updated with new playground equipment. This site also has a basketball court behind the center and is near the walking track.

Tilghman Park

409 Montgomery Street - This is the City's location for T-ball and coach-pitched baseball. It also has slides, hobby horses, swings and a merry-go-round.

Basketball Season Up and Running

Basketball Season kicked off the first of January. The season will continue until mid February. Come on out to A.C. Tollison Gym located in front of the Fox Field to show some support and enjoyment to these kids and coaches for all their hard work. Schedules are posted on Facebook daily to remind you of who and what is going on.

With Spring cleaning coming up, yard sales will be popping up all over town! **Remember to purchase your permit (\$3 per day) at City Hall Monday through Thursday. No yard sale permits are issued on Fridays.** Call City Hall at 423-5961 if you have questions.



Spring Sports Sign Ups

We will start taking applications for baseball, softball, t- ball & pitching machine on Thursday, January 30th thru Thursday, February 27th. Registration will be held at Watsonia Recreation anytime from 8 am to 5pm; Monday thru Friday. You **MUST** bring in a copy of the child's birth certificate at the time of sign up. We do not keep anything on file. Costs are as follows, City residents \$16 with proof of residency & \$30 for those residing outside the city limits. Below is a list of how the age groups are broken down & the cut off dates. If there is any questions please feel free to call 423-5410.

BASEBALL: 5-6 (BOYS & GIRLS) PEE WEE MINORS
7-8 (BOYS & GIRLS) PEE WEE MAJORS
9-10 (BOYS) DIXIE YOUTH
11-12 (BOYS) DIXIE YOUTH
13-14 (BOYS) DIXIE BOYS

SOFTBALL: 9-10 (GIRLS) ANGELS
11-12 (GIRLS) PONYTAILS
13-15 (GIRLS) BELLES

CUT OFF DATES ARE: APRIL 30TH FOR BASEBALL
DECEMBER 31ST FOR SOFTBALL

Absolutely NO SIGN UPS will be taken after February 27th.

CITY RENTALS AVAILABLE

Need a place to have your class reunion, family reunion, church social, or to have a party? We have the perfect location for you, whether an outdoor or indoor event from our picnic shelter or our recreation and fine arts center. Anyone interested in these locations for their events should call Cheryl Askins, 423-5410 for availability.

MARION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES YARD OF THE MONTH



Charles and Mary Lynn Jones, 703 Lipscomb Street, have been awarded the Marion Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month for January 2014. The Chamber is proud to recognize those in our community that work so diligently, and add

so much to our community's unique character. The Jones' will be receiving a gift certificate from Tru Green Nursery in recognition of this honor.

Martin Luther King Historical March in Marion, SC !!

Article by Irene Dais, Co-Chair Diversity Council



Monday, January 20, 2014 marked a historical day in the City of Marion, SC. It was the First Martin Luther King March and Celebration held in the City of Marion. Hundreds people

gathered at the First United Methodist Church on Godbold Street to begin the march across town to the Door of Hope Christian Church. It was a delightful and joyful march; many people sang songs of old and seemed joyful to be a part of this historical march and celebration.

The theme of the march was "Unity" which was demonstrated in the March and program. Unity is critical in order to move, expand and become more progressive in our outlook. We can accomplish great things in this City if we can work in unity. United we stand and divided we fall.

The leaders of the parade included the Honorable Mayor Bobby Davis, Bishop Michael Blue, Pastor of the Door of Hope Christian Church and members of the City and County Council. Many people rejoiced as they marched down to the church in Unity.



This march was sponsored by the City of Marion Diversity Committee under the leadership of Mayor Bobby Davis. Once we marched at Door of Hope they were seated and enjoyed a wonderful program

and message delivered by Bishop Blue. The choir sang two glorious songs that inspired everyone hearts.

The church holds 850 people and very few seats were empty. Many civic and community organizations participated in the march. The program was outstanding and I believe that people enjoyed it thoroughly based on their overwhelming positive comments.

We are looking forward to our next March in 2015.

Marion Chamber of Commerce CHAMBER CHECK PROGRAM

A GREAT GIFT IDEA

The Marion Chamber of Commerce continues to offer a Gift Certificate Program to promote our shopping at home efforts. When money is spent in our community, it provides jobs for our community and jobs provide money to be spent in our community with our merchant members. We are very proud of this program and believe it is helping our community.

The Chamber has Chamber Checks on sale in \$10.00 to \$100.00 denominations in \$5.00 increments. These are redeemable at any participating Chamber member location. The purpose of this program is to promote shopping with our local retailers and merchants.

Those Chamber members wishing to participate in the program will be provided with a *"We Honor Marion Chamber of Commerce Chamber Check Gift Certificates"* plaque for their business. Checks redeemed are to be returned to the Chamber for full value. The gift certificates, once issued expire six months after purchase and cannot be redeemed for cash. A minimum purchase can be required as deemed appropriate by individual participating members.

Gerald's Ice Cream Parlor & Restaurant invite you to come and dine with them. Located 501 Tom Gasque Ave, Marion SC. Thursday, Friday and Sunday - Open 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Saturday hours are 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. See you there!!!!!! Nathaniel Gerald - Owner



Black History Month 2014

February 2014

Theme: **Civil Rights In America**

The theme for Black History Month in 2014 is "Civil Rights in America" chronicling the important milestones by African-Americans and others in the battle for civil rights and equal treatment under the law.

Black History through the eyes of children

Black History to me means everybody getting the same rights, same freedom, and opportunities. Like for example if you go to any state you get the same opportunities to go any were you want to like there's all kinds of restaurants, you can have your birthday anywhere you want or even dress the way you want to. That's what people stood up for us so we could get the same opportunities just as well as every other people that's what I think about Black History Month.

Kiyauna Garner
Marion Intermediate School

In my opinion, I think Black History is when African American people feel appreciation for themselves. Black History is when people celebrating the stopping of slavery. I think it is also about freedom and African American rights. I love Black History. These are the reasons why: freedom, rights and stopping slavery.

Marcus Brown
Johnakin Middle School

I think Black History month is wonderful. Its a way to express African American Freedom. I am proud of it myself. Its a great way to Honor heroes such as Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Malcom X and others. This month is brave because it expresses good heroes.

Marvesha Gause
Johnakin Middle School

Black history mean a lot to African Americans. It gives them freedom. Just like Martin Luther King Jr. When he gave out his famous. And risk his life for use. The next day he was dead. Black history mean's I'm free as a child. Like I can't do everything, but I can do almost everything.

Jason Slade
Johnakin Middle School

SC Works Marion

SC Works of the Pee Dee and the South Carolina National Guard Employment Readiness Division will host a **FREE JOB FAIR** on February 27, 2014, from 9:00 -1:00 p.m. It will be held at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing Technology in room 140-D located at 1951 Pisgah Rd in Florence. The career fair is open to the public however, to honor the sacrifices of our Veterans and National Guard members; they will be given special access to the job fair from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

NEED HELP?

Call City Hall, 843-423-5961, unless otherwise noted, and one of the following will be able to help you.

- Mayor Bobby L. Davis**, (843) 423-5961, Ext. 21
- Alan Ammons**, City Administrator & Building Official, Ext. 19
- Pam Jones**, City Clerk, Ext. 10
- Patricia Brown**, City Treasurer, Ext. 18
- Elizabeth Sanders**, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 11
- Elizabeth Ficik**, Personnel & Purchasing Director, (843) 423-8614
- Vickie J. Nichols**, Grant Writing & Publicist, Ext. 22
- Frank Page**, Athletic Director, (843) 423-5410
- Jim Gray**, Police Chief, (843) 423-8616
- Trey Cooper**, Fire Chief, (843) 423-8602
- Heather Evans**, Municipal Court Clerk, (843) 423-8616
- Alemeta Mullins**, Secretary, (843) 423-8616

The Swamp Fox Scene is the City of Marion's Free monthly newspaper for citizens and visitor's of the Swamp Fox City, Marion, South Carolina. Printed by Herald Multiforms in Dillon, city employees produce and distribute the newspaper.

The Marion Chamber and HMRA help pay printing costs.

A PDF version is available by e-mail or online. For more information about the newspaper, call Mayor Bobby L. Davis or City Administrator Alan Ammons at (843) 423-5961.

Join us for aerobics

The Marion Recreation Department offers Senior Aerobics every Monday and Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Watsonia Recreation Center. The class is offered by Marion County Council on Aging. There is no sign up necessary for this class and it's FREE, however, donations are appreciated. Everyone is invited to come by and check out a class before joining us. Anyone with questions about the class can call 423-4391.

Same day, new time for Bingo at Watsonia

The time to play Bingo in Watsonia Recreation Center has changed to 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Bingo is played on the first and third Thursday of each month and there are plenty of seats for newcomers to join the fun. We have refreshments for you to enjoy while you play. So come on over and bring some friends! We look forward to seeing you here. Bingo is free of charge and open to the public and prizes are awarded to winners.

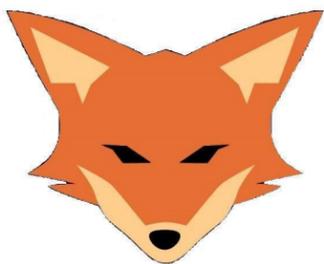
Relay for Life

We are gearing up for the 2014 Relay for Life. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Thank you,
Debbie Erwin
Event Chair, 843-260-4483



City employees training for Fourth HISTORIC MARION RUNFEST



All citizens are encouraged to move 'From Couch to 5K' with the city employees



City of Marion officials are again encouraging participation in the fourth annual Historic Marion Runfest set for February 22nd and are promoting better health of its employees. The City of Marion Wellness Program is encouraging employees to train to participate in the 5K/10K Run-Walk. Because preparing for any run can be daunting, Personnel Director Elizabeth Ficik is again promoting a way to move employees from the couch to walking and from walking to running, through the program, "From Couch to 5K." Each session will take about 20 to 30 minutes, three times a week. Citizens are encouraged to join the employees on the walking trails at Withlacoochee Park and Grice Recreation Center. Training will be four days a week, Monday through Thursday, at 4:30 p.m. Anyone interested in participating with the employees should contact Elizabeth Ficik at City Hall, eficik@marionsc.gov or 423-8614.

14 & Under Basketball Photos



Pee Wee Basketball Photos

For more photos of Marion Recreation Department Basketball youth games or schedule, visit the City of Marion Recreation Department on Facebook!

Questions or to share information for the Swamp Fox Scene, please email vnichols@marionsc.gov